

Renewable Northwest Project  
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Communications  
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P.O. Box 12999  
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**Subject: Condon Wind Project Draft EIS**

The Renewable Northwest Project (RNP) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Condon Wind Project. RNP is composed of environmental groups, consumer organizations, renewable energy developers and energy efficiency companies. Operating in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, RNP works for clean air and sustainable energy through the implementation of cost-effective, workable, renewable technologies.

Renewable resources need to be examined within the context of the resources they displace and the problems they help avoid. Investing in properly sited renewables protects the environment, promotes economic development, diversifies the power system and keeps the region competitive.

RNP appreciates BPA's leadership and commitment in developing renewable resources. We support the development of Condon Wind Project.

**Environmental Benefits of the Project**

Tightened energy supplies coupled with the energy crisis in the Northwest have resulted in the support of short-term small generation policies relying on diesel fuels and the proposal of more than 16,000 MW of new gas-fired power plants in the region. Fossil fuels are major sources of acid rain, pollution-caused illnesses, habitat destruction, smog and greenhouse gases. The fuel cycle, from extraction to combustion of fossil fuels, results in the vast majority of human-made releases of greenhouse gases.

The Condon Wind Project comes at crucial time in the Pacific Northwest. In comparison to developing a new gas plant, the 24.6 MW Project, operating at 30% capacity factor could displace annual emission of at least 27,152 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, and 2.7 tons of acid rain precursors

(SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>). In terms of global warming impacts, this is the equivalent to planting over 10,000 acres of trees.

As new gas plants come on line over the next 2 to 3 years, our reliance on fossil fuels will worsen. According to the Clean Air Task Force, a 250 MW gas plant will produce at least 458,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, 4.38 tons of SO<sub>2</sub> and 88 tons of NO<sub>x</sub> each year.

The Condon Wind Project provides an opportunity to diversify the regions fuel mix and avoid the adverse environmental impacts associated with fossil-fueled resources and hydro.

**Draft EIS Comments**

We appreciate Bonneville and SeaWest's effort in taking the necessary steps to developing a beneficial wind project in the region.

RNP is pleased to see that there are low to minor avian and wildlife impacts, and that threatened wildlife species are not likely to be adversely impacted. SeaWest has taken the necessary steps to minimize wildlife impacts by adopting monitoring standards once the project is in operation.

The no action alternative should better document the air pollution and water quality impacts that will result from a greater reliance of fossil fuels in the status quo. In particular, the avian impacts from fossil fuel emissions need to be identified. The no action alternative in this EIS underestimates the impacts. We believe the benefits of wind would be even more dramatic if the no action alternative reflected the full costs of a strategy that fosters more destructive resources.

**Summary**

Renewable resources neither harm fish nor create air, water and land pollution associated with fossil fuels or hydro. The growing need to control greenhouse gas emissions will create a greater need for zero emission resources, such as wind.

We fully support the development of the project because developing renewable resources for power can lead to a sustainable environment and economy.

Sincerely,

  
Norma Lynn  
Policy Associate